

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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R 240227Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 131782

EXDIS, SEOUL FOR ASST SEC HOLBROOKE AND GLEYSTEN ONLY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - PHILIPPINES (EXDIS SECTION)

TO : EA - MR. OAKLEY

FROM: EA/PHL - JOHN C. MONJO

POSSIBLE ASYLUM SEEKER: CHARITO PLANAS (CONFIDENTIAL
EXDIS)

CHARITO PLANAS, THE LABAN CANDIDATE WHO HAS BEEN IN
HIDING TO AVOID ARREST ON CHARGES OF SUBVERSION ARISING
FROM AN APRIL 7 PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY RAID ON HER
HOUSE, IS REPORTED BY RAUL MANG LAPUS OF THE MOVEMENT FOR
A FREE PHILIPPINES TO HAVE REACHED SABAH. EMBASSIES
KUALA LUMPUR AND MANILA ARE ALERT TO THE SITUATION OUT
HAVE NOT YET BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONTACT HOST GOVERNMENTS.
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AS OF COB MAY 23 MALAYSIAN TIME PLANAS HERSELF HAS NOT
YET MADE CONTACT WITH OUR EMBASSY IN KUALA LUMPUR.

DEPARTMENT LEARNED MAY 19 THAT WASHINGTON POST PLANNED TO
RUN STORY MAY 20 REPORTING VICE PRESIDENT WAS ASKED BY
MARTIAL LAW OPPONENT TO OFFER ASSISTANCE TO MS. PLANAS
IN SEEKING ASYLUM IN THE U.S. AND THAT MONDALE OFFERED

TO HELP BUT ONLY IF SHE WERE IN ANOTHER COUNTRY. AMEMBASSY
MANILA WAS ALERTED TO INFORM SENIOR LEVEL GOP THAT
(A) FRIENDS OF PLANAS HAD REQUESTED SUCH ASSISTANCE
PRIOR TO AND DURING THE VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO MANILA,
(B) IN LINE WITH OUR STANDARED POLICY, WE HAD MADE O
GUARANTEE OF ASYLUM, AND (C) WE HAD HAD NO CONTACT WITH
PLANAS AND WERE NOT INVOLVED IN ANY PLANS SHE MIGHT HAVE
TO LEAVE THE PHILIPPINES. ON MAY 20 CHARGE TOUSSAINT
INFORMED AMBASSADOR MABILANGAN AND UNDER SECRETARY
COLLANTES OF MFA AND DEPUTY SECRETARY OF PUBLIC INFORMA-
TION CRUZ OF POSSIBLE POST STORY, FOR WHICH THEY EX-
PRESSED APPRECIATION BUT MADE NO COMMENT. (MARCOS AND
ROMULO WERE OUTSIDE MANILA FOR THE DAY.) MAY 21 POST
DID CARRY JAY MATHEWS/BERNIE WIDEMAN STORY DATELINED
MANILA THAT QUOTE VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE PROMISED ASYLUM
UNQUOTE TO PLANAS BUT QUOTE OFFERED NO HELP UNTIL SHE
REACHED AMERICAN SOIL UNQUOTE, CITING AS SOURCES MARTIAL
LAW OPPONETS WHO SAW MONDALE IN MANLA.

DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE EXPRESSED PERSONAL APPRECIATION
TO CHARGE MAY 21 FOR ADVANCE WORD TO GOP RE POST STORY.
AFTER COMMENTING PRESIDENT MARCOS HAD BEEN INFORMED OF
ADVANCE NOTICE, ENRILE SAID, "THIS IS WHAT FRIENDS
SHOULD DO."

NO QUESTIONS WERE ASKED AT MAY 20, 22, OR 23 PRESS
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BRIEFINGS.

PLEASE NOTE FOR EA ONLY CAPTION. VANCE

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